

**A. AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS**

Please cancel Claims 7, 22, 36, 51 and 54 and amend the claims as indicated hereinafter.

- 1    1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for automatically routing an integrated circuit, the  
2       method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:  
3           receiving integrated circuit layout data that defines a set of two or more integrated circuit  
4               devices to be included in the integrated circuit;  
5           receiving integrated circuit connection data that specifies one or more electrical  
6               connections to be made between the integrated circuit devices;  
7           determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data and the integrated circuit  
8               connection data, a set of one or more routing indicators that specify a set of one or  
9               more preferable intermediate routing locations through which a routing path is to  
10              be located to connect first and second integrated circuit devices from the set of  
11              two or more integrated circuit devices;  
12           identifying one or more obstacles that block the routing path;  
13           determining one or more portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted;  
14           determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
15               connection data, the set of one or more routing indicators and the one or more  
16               portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted, the routing path between  
17               the first and second integrated circuit devices, wherein the routing path satisfies  
18               specified design criteria; and  
19           ~~determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit~~  
20               ~~connection data and the set of one or more routing indicators, the routing path~~  
21               ~~between the first and second integrated circuit devices, wherein the routing path~~  
22               ~~satisfies specified design criteria; and~~

23 updating the integrated circuit layout data to generate updated integrated circuit layout  
24 data that reflects the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit  
25 devices.

1 2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein determining the  
2 routing path includes determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the  
3 integrated circuit connection data, the set of one or more routing indicators, the one or  
4 more portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted, bias direction criteria and  
5 straying limit criteria, the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit  
6 devices, wherein the bias direction criteria specifies a preferred routing direction for a  
7 routing path between first and second integrated circuit devices from the set of two or  
8 more integrated circuit devices and the straying limit criteria defines a routing region in  
9 which the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit devices may be  
10 placed.

1 3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein determining the  
2 routing path between the first and second integrated circuit devices includes  
3 ~~identifying one or more obstacles that block the routing path,~~  
4 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
5 connection data and the one or more obstacles, one or more additional routing  
6 indicators that specify one or more preferable routing locations through which the  
7 routing path is to be located to avoid the one or more obstacles, and  
8 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
9 connection data, the set of one or more routing indicators and indicators, the one  
10 or more additional routing indicators, indicators and the one or more portions of  
11 the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted, the routing path between the first  
12 and second integrated circuit devices.

1 4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein determining the  
2 routing path between the first and second integrated circuit devices includes  
3 identifying ~~one or more obstacles that block the routing path;~~  
4 changing specified straying limit criteria that defines a routing region in which the  
5 routing path between the first and second integrated circuit devices may be placed  
6 to generate changed specified straying limit criteria that defines a modified  
7 routing region, and  
8 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
9 connection data, the set of one or more routing ~~indicators~~indicators, the one or  
10 more portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted and the changed  
11 specified straying limit criteria, the routing path between the first and second  
12 integrated circuit devices.

1 5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein determining the  
2 routing path between the first and second integrated circuit devices includes  
3 identifying ~~one or more obstacles that block the routing path;~~  
4 determining a set of one or more layer changes to allow the routing path to avoid the one  
5 more obstacles, and  
6 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
7 connection data, the set of one or more routing ~~indicators~~indicators, the one or  
8 more portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted and the set of one  
9 or more layer changes, the routing path between the first and second integrated  
10 circuit devices.

1 6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein determining the  
2 routing path between the first and second integrated circuit devices includes  
3 identifying ~~one or more obstacles that block the routing path;~~

4 determining a set of one or more bends to be included in the routing path to avoid the one  
5 more obstacles, and  
6 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
7 connection data, the set of one or more routing indicators indicators, the one or  
8 more portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted and the set of one  
9 or more bends, the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit  
10 devices.

1 7. (CANCELED)

1 8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in Claim 7, Claim 1, wherein  
2 determining the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit devices  
3 further includes  
4 determining one or more portions of one or more other routing paths to be ripped up and  
5 rerouted, and  
6 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
7 connection data, the set of one or more routing indicators, the one or more  
8 portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted and the one or more  
9 portions of the one or more other routing paths to be ripped up and rerouted, the  
10 routing path between the first and second integrated circuit devices.

1 9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein determining the  
2 routing path between the first and second integrated circuit devices further includes  
3 identifying one or more obstacles that block the routing path,  
4 determining one or more portions of one or more other routing paths to be ripped up and  
5 rerouted, and

6 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
7 connection data, the set of one or more routing indicators indicators, the one or  
8 more portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted and the one or  
9 more portions of the one or more other routing paths to be ripped up and rerouted,  
10 the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit devices.

1 10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein determining the  
2 routing path between the first and second integrated circuit devices includes determining  
3 the routing path from the second integrated circuit device to the first integrated circuit  
4 device.

5 identifying one or more obstacles that block the routing path, and  
6 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
7 connection data and the set of one or more routing indicators, the routing path  
8 between the first and second integrated circuit devices, wherein the routing path is  
9 routed from the second integrated circuit device to the first integrated circuit  
10 device.

1 11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein determining the  
2 routing path between the first and second integrated circuit devices includes  
3 identifying one or more obstacles that block the routing path,  
4 determining one or more locations to employ corner clipping to provide additional space  
5 for the routing path, and  
6 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
7 connection data, the set of one or more routing indicators indicators, the one or  
8 more portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted and the one or  
9 more locations to employ corner clipping, the routing path between the first and  
10 second integrated circuit devices.

1       12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein determining the  
2       routing path between the first and second integrated circuit devices includes  
3       ~~identifying one or more obstacles that block the routing path,~~  
4       determining one or more integrated circuit layout objects to be moved to provide  
5       additional space for the routing path, and  
6       determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
7       connection data, the set of one or more routing ~~indicators~~indicators, the one or  
8       ~~more portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted and moving the one~~  
9       or more integrated circuit layout objects, the routing path between the first and  
10      second integrated circuit devices.

1       13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein determining the  
2       routing path between the first and second integrated circuit devices includes  
3       examining data that indicates whether changes can be made to one or more layout objects  
4       defined by the integrated circuit layout data to accommodate the routing of the  
5       routing path, and  
6       if the data indicates that changes can be made to the one or more layout objects defined  
7       by the integrated circuit layout data to accommodate the routing of the routing  
8       path, then  
9       making one or more changes to the one or more layout objects defined by the  
10      integrated circuit layout data, and  
11      determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
12      connection data, the set of one or more routing ~~indicators~~indicators, the  
13      ~~one or more portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted and~~  
14      the one or more changes made to the one or more layout objects, the  
15      routing path between the first and second integrated circuit devices.

1 14. (ORIGINAL) The method as recited in Claim 13, further comprising generating data that  
2 specifies the one or more changes made to the one or more layout objects.

1 15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein determining the  
2 routing path between the first and second integrated circuit devices includes  
3 determining a set of one or more routing targets to which the routing path is to be routed,  
4 and  
5 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
6 connection data, the set of one or more routing indicators, the one or  
7 more portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted and the set of one  
8 or more routing targets, the routing path between the first and second integrated  
9 circuit devices.

1 16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for automatically routing an integrated circuit, the  
2 method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:  
3 receiving integrated circuit layout data that defines a set of two or more integrated circuit  
4 devices to be included in the integrated circuit;  
5 receiving integrated circuit connection data that specifies one or more electrical  
6 connections to be made between the integrated circuit devices;  
7 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data and the integrated circuit  
8 connection data, a set of one or more routing indicators that specify a set of one or  
9 more preferable intermediate routing locations through which a routing path is to  
10 be located to connect first and second integrated circuit devices from the set of  
11 two or more integrated circuit devices; and  
12 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
13 connection data and the set of one or more routing indicators, the routing path

14           between the first and second integrated circuit devices, wherein the routing path  
15           satisfies specified design criteria, and The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein  
16           determining the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit  
17           devices includes performing one or more design rule checks on one or more  
18           portions of the routing path as the routing path is being determined.

1       17. (ORIGINAL) The method as recited in Claim 16, further comprising performing a design  
2           rule check on the updated integrated circuit layout data, wherein the design rule check  
3           does not check one or more layout objects previously checked during determination of  
4           the routing path.

1       18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for automatically routing an integrated circuit, the  
2           method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:  
3           receiving integrated circuit layout data that defines a set of two or more integrated circuit  
4           devices to be included in the integrated circuit;  
5           receiving integrated circuit connection data that specifies one or more electrical  
6           connections to be made between the integrated circuit devices;  
7           determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data and the integrated circuit  
8           connection data, a set of one or more routing indicators that specify a set of one or  
9           more preferable intermediate routing locations through which a routing path is to  
10           be located to connect first and second integrated circuit devices from the set of  
11           two or more integrated circuit devices; and  
12           determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
13           connection data and the set of one or more routing indicators, the routing path  
14           between the first and second integrated circuit devices, wherein the routing path  
15           satisfies specified design criteria, and The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein

16 determining the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit  
17 devices includes  
18 extending the routing path a specified amount to generate an extended portion of  
19 the routing path, and  
20 selectively performing a design rule check on only the extended portion of the  
21 routing path.

1 19. (ORIGINAL) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein all attachment and bend angles  
2 defined by the updated integrated circuit layout data are multiples of ninety degrees.

1 20. (ORIGINAL) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein one or more attachment or bend  
2 angles defined by the updated integrated circuit layout data are multiples of other than  
3 ninety degrees.

1 21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for automatically verifying an integrated  
2 circuit layout, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:  
3 receiving integrated circuit layout data that defines a set of two or more layout objects  
4 contained in the integrated circuit layout;  
5 performing a first design rule check on a layout object from the set of two or more layout  
6 objects by evaluating the layout object against specified design criteria;  
7 changing one or more values defined by the specified design criteria to generate updated  
8 specified design criteria, wherein the changing of the one or more values is  
9 performed after a specified amount of time has elapsed and is made with respect  
10 to either the layout object or one or more other layout objects from the set of two  
11 or more layout objects; and  
12 performing a second design rule check on the layout object by evaluating the layout  
13 object against the updated specified design criteria.

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1 22. (CANCELED)

1 23. (ORIGINAL) A method for automatically routing an integrated circuit, the method  
2 comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

3 receiving integrated circuit layout data that defines a set of two or more integrated circuit  
4 devices to be included in the integrated circuit;

5 receiving integrated circuit connection data that specifies one or more electrical  
6 connections to be made between the integrated circuit devices;

7 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data and the integrated circuit  
8 connection data, a routing path between first and second integrated circuit devices

9 that satisfies specified design criteria, wherein determining the routing path  
10 between the first and second integrated circuit devices includes

11 determining whether the distance to be routed for a portion of the routing path  
12 exceeds a specified distance, and

13 if the distance to be routed for the portion of the routing path does not exceed the  
14 specified distance, then routing the portion of the routing path in a single  
15 step; and

16 updating the integrated circuit layout data to generate updated integrated circuit layout  
17 data that reflects the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit  
18 devices.

1 24. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more  
2 sequences of one or more instructions for automatically routing an integrated circuit, the one  
3 or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed  
4 by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

5 receiving integrated circuit layout data that defines a set of two or more integrated circuit  
6 devices to be included in the integrated circuit;  
7 receiving integrated circuit connection data that specifies one or more electrical  
8 connections to be made between the integrated circuit devices;  
9 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data and the integrated circuit  
10 connection data, a set of one or more routing indicators that specify a set of one or  
11 more preferable intermediate routing locations through which a routing path is to  
12 be located to connect first and second integrated circuit devices from the set of  
13 two or more integrated circuit devices;  
14 identifying one or more obstacles that block the routing path;  
15 determining one or more portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted;  
16 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
17 connection data, the set of one or more routing indicators and the one or more  
18 portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted, the routing path between  
19 the first and second integrated circuit devices, wherein the routing path satisfies  
20 specified design criteria; and  
21 ~~determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit~~  
22 ~~connection data and the set of one or more routing indicators, the routing path~~  
23 ~~between the first and second integrated circuit devices, wherein the routing path~~  
24 ~~satisfies specified design criteria; and~~  
25 updating the integrated circuit layout data to generate updated integrated circuit layout  
26 data that reflects the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit  
27 devices.

1 25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 24,  
2 wherein determining the routing path includes determining, based upon the integrated  
3 circuit layout data, the integrated circuit connection data, the set of one or more routing

4       indicators, the one or more portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted, bias  
5       direction criteria and straying limit criteria, the routing path between the first and second  
6       integrated circuit devices, wherein the bias direction criteria specifies a preferred routing  
7       direction for a routing path between first and second integrated circuit devices from the  
8       set of two or more integrated circuit devices and the straying limit criteria defines a  
9       routing region in which the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit  
10      devices may be placed.

1     26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 24,  
2       wherein determining the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit  
3       devices includes  
4           identifying one or more obstacles that block the routing path,  
5           determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
6           connection data and the one or more obstacles, one or more additional routing  
7           indicators that specify one or more preferable routing locations through which the  
8           routing path is to be located to avoid the one or more obstacles, and  
9           determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
10          connection data, the set of one or more routing indicators and indicators, the one  
11          or more additional routing indicators, indicators and the one or more portions of  
12          the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted, the routing path between the first  
13          and second integrated circuit devices.

1     27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 24,  
2       wherein determining the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit  
3       devices includes  
4           identifying one or more obstacles that block the routing path,

5 changing specified straying limit criteria that defines a routing region in which the  
6 routing path between the first and second integrated circuit devices may be placed  
7 to generate changed specified straying limit criteria that defines a modified  
8 routing region, and  
9 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
10 connection data, the set of one or more routing indicators, the one or  
11 more portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted and the changed  
12 specified straying limit criteria, the routing path between the first and second  
13 integrated circuit devices.

1 28. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 24,  
2 wherein determining the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit  
3 devices includes  
4 identifying one or more obstacles that block the routing path;  
5 determining a set of one or more layer changes to allow the routing path to avoid the one  
6 more obstacles, and  
7 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
8 connection data, the set of one or more routing indicators, the one or  
9 more portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted and the set of one  
10 or more layer changes, the routing path between the first and second integrated  
11 circuit devices.

1 29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system for automatically routing an integrated circuit, the  
2 system comprising:  
3 a data storage mechanism having stored therein

4 integrated circuit layout data that defines a set of two or more integrated circuit  
5 devices to be included in the integrated circuit, and  
6 integrated circuit connection data that specifies one or more electrical connections  
7 to be made between the integrated circuit devices; and  
8 a routing mechanism communicatively coupled to the data storage mechanism, the  
9 routing mechanism being configured to  
10 determine, based upon the integrated circuit layout data and the integrated circuit  
11 connection data, a set of one or more routing indicators that specify a set  
12 of one or more preferable intermediate routing locations through which a  
13 routing path is to be located to connect first and second integrated circuit  
14 devices from the set of two or more integrated circuit devices,  
15 identify one or more obstacles that block the routing path;  
16 determine one or more portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted;  
17 determine, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
18 connection data, the set of one or more routing indicators and the one or  
19 more portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted, the routing  
20 path between the first and second integrated circuit devices, wherein the  
21 routing path satisfies specified design criteria; and  
22 ~~determine, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit~~  
23 ~~connection data and the set of one or more routing indicators, the routing~~  
24 ~~path between the first and second integrated circuit devices, wherein the~~  
25 ~~routing path satisfies specified design criteria, and~~  
26 update the integrated circuit layout data to generate updated integrated circuit  
27 layout data that reflects the routing path between the first and second  
28 integrated circuit devices.

1 30. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system as recited in Claim 29, wherein the routing  
2 mechanism is further configured to determine the routing path by determining, based  
3 upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit connection data, the set of  
4 one or more routing indicators, the one or more portions of the routing path to be ripped  
5 up and rerouted, bias direction criteria and straying limit criteria, the routing path  
6 between the first and second integrated circuit devices, wherein the bias direction criteria  
7 specifies a preferred routing direction for a routing path between first and second  
8 integrated circuit devices from the set of two or more integrated circuit devices and the  
9 straying limit criteria defines a routing region in which the routing path between the first  
10 and second integrated circuit devices may be placed.

1 31. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system as recited in Claim 29, wherein the routing  
2 mechanism is further configured to determine the routing path between the first and  
3 second integrated circuit devices by  
4 ~~identifying one or more obstacles that block the routing path,~~  
5 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
6 connection data and the one or more obstacles, one or more additional routing  
7 indicators that specify one or more preferable routing locations through which the  
8 routing path is to be located to avoid the one or more obstacles, and  
9 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
10 connection data, the set of one or more routing indicators and indicators, the one  
11 or more additional routing indicators, indicators and the one or more portions of  
12 the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted, the routing path between the first  
13 and second integrated circuit devices.

1 32. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system as recited in Claim 29, wherein the routing  
2 mechanism is further configured to determine the routing path between the first and  
3 second integrated circuit devices by  
4 identifying one or more obstacles that block the routing path,  
5 changing specified straying limit criteria that defines a routing region in which the  
6 routing path between the first and second integrated circuit devices may be placed  
7 to generate changed specified straying limit criteria that defines a modified  
8 routing region, and  
9 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
10 connection data, the set of one or more routing indicators indicators, the one or  
11 more portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted and the changed  
12 specified straying limit criteria, the routing path between the first and second  
13 integrated circuit devices.

1 33. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system as recited in Claim 29, wherein routing  
2 mechanism is further configured to determine the routing path between the first and  
3 second integrated circuit devices by  
4 identifying one or more obstacles that block the routing path,  
5 determining a set of one or more layer changes to allow the routing path to avoid the one  
6 more obstacles, and  
7 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
8 connection data, the set of one or more routing indicators indicators, the one or  
9 more portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted and the set of one  
10 or more layer changes, the routing path between the first and second integrated  
11 circuit devices.

1 34. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein each routing  
2 indicator from the set of one or more routing indicators further specifies a routing  
3 direction for the routing path.

1 35. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 24,  
2 wherein determining the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit  
3 devices includes  
4 identifying one or more obstacles that block the routing path,  
5 determining a set of one or more bends to be included in the routing path to avoid the one  
6 more obstacles, and  
7 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
8 connection data, the set of one or more routing ~~indicators~~ indicators, the one or  
9 more portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted and the set of one  
10 or more bends, the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit  
11 devices.

1 36. (CANCELED)

1 37. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer-readable medium as recited in ~~Claim 36,~~  
2 ~~Claim 24,~~ wherein determining the routing path between the first and second integrated  
3 circuit devices further includes  
4 determining one or more portions of one or more other routing paths to be ripped up and  
5 rerouted, and  
6 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
7 connection data, the set of one or more routing indicators, the one or more  
8 portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted and the one or more

9               portions of the one or more other routing paths to be ripped up and rerouted, the  
10              routing path between the first and second integrated circuit devices.

1     38. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 24,  
2              wherein determining the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit  
3              devices further includes  
4              ~~identifying one or more obstacles that block the routing path,~~  
5              determining one or more portions of one or more other routing paths to be ripped up and  
6              rerouted, and  
7              determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
8              connection data, the set of one or more routing ~~indicators~~indicators, the one or  
9              ~~more portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted~~ and the one or  
10             more portions of the one or more other routing paths to be ripped up and rerouted,  
11             the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit devices.

1     39. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 24,  
2              wherein determining the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit  
3              devices includes determining the routing path from the second integrated circuit device to  
4              the first integrated circuit device.  
5              ~~identifying one or more obstacles that block the routing path, and~~  
6              determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
7              connection data and the set of one or more routing ~~indicators, the routing path~~  
8              ~~between the first and second integrated circuit devices, wherein the routing path is~~  
9              ~~routed from the second integrated circuit device to the first integrated circuit~~  
10             ~~device.~~

1 40. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 24,  
2 wherein determining the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit  
3 devices includes  
4 ~~identifying one or more obstacles that block the routing path;~~  
5 determining one or more locations to employ corner clipping to provide additional space  
6 for the routing path, and  
7 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
8 connection data, the set of one or more routing ~~indicators~~indicators, the one or  
9 more portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted and the one or  
10 more locations to employ corner clipping, the routing path between the first and  
11 second integrated circuit devices.

1 41. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 24,  
2 wherein determining the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit  
3 devices includes  
4 ~~identifying one or more obstacles that block the routing path;~~  
5 determining one or more integrated circuit layout objects to be moved to provide  
6 additional space for the routing path, and  
7 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
8 connection data, the set of one or more routing ~~indicators~~indicators, the one or  
9 more portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted and moving the one or  
10 more integrated circuit layout objects, the routing path between the first and  
11 second integrated circuit devices.

1 42. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 24,  
2 wherein determining the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit  
3 devices includes

4 examining data that indicates whether changes can be made to one or more layout objects  
5 defined by the integrated circuit layout data to accommodate the routing of the  
6 routing path, and  
7 if the data indicates that changes can be made to the one or more layout objects defined  
8 by the integrated circuit layout data to accommodate the routing of the routing  
9 path, then  
10 making one or more changes to the one or more layout objects defined by the  
11 integrated circuit layout data, and  
12 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
13 connection data, the set of one or more routing ~~indicators~~indicators, the  
14 one or more portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted and  
15 the one or more changes made to the one or more layout objects, the  
16 routing path between the first and second integrated circuit devices.

1 43. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 42,  
2 further comprising one or more additional instructions which, when executed by the one  
3 or more processors, cause the one or more processors to generate data that specifies the  
4 one or more changes made to the one or more layout objects.

1 44. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 24,  
2 wherein determining the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit  
3 devices includes  
4 determining a set of one or more routing targets to which the routing path is to be routed,  
5 and  
6 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
7 connection data, the set of one or more routing ~~indicators~~indicators, the one or  
8 more portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted and the set of one

9                   or more routing targets, the routing path between the first and second integrated  
10                  circuit devices.

1       45. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more  
2                  sequences of one or more instructions for automatically routing an integrated circuit, the one  
3                  or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed  
4                  by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:  
5                  receiving integrated circuit layout data that defines a set of two or more integrated circuit  
6                  devices to be included in the integrated circuit;  
7                  receiving integrated circuit connection data that specifies one or more electrical  
8                  connections to be made between the integrated circuit devices;  
9                  determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data and the integrated circuit  
10                 connection data, a set of one or more routing indicators that specify a set of one or  
11                 more preferable intermediate routing locations through which a routing path is to  
12                 be located to connect first and second integrated circuit devices from the set of  
13                 two or more integrated circuit devices; and  
14                 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
15                 connection data and the set of one or more routing indicators, the routing path  
16                 between the first and second integrated circuit devices, wherein the routing path  
17                 satisfies specified design criteria, and The computer readable medium as recited  
18                 in Claim 24, wherein determining the routing path between the first and second  
19                 integrated circuit devices includes performing one or more design rule checks on  
20                 one or more portions of the routing path as the routing path is being determined.

1       46. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 45,  
2                  further comprising one or more additional instructions which, when executed by the one

3        or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform a design rule check on  
4        the updated integrated circuit layout data, wherein the design rule check does not check  
5        one or more layout objects previously checked during determination of the routing path.

- 1        47. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more  
2        sequences of one or more instructions for automatically routing an integrated circuit, the one  
3        or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed  
4        by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:  
5        receiving integrated circuit layout data that defines a set of two or more integrated circuit  
6        devices to be included in the integrated circuit;  
7        receiving integrated circuit connection data that specifies one or more electrical  
8        connections to be made between the integrated circuit devices;  
9        determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data and the integrated circuit  
10      connection data, a set of one or more routing indicators that specify a set of one or  
11      more preferable intermediate routing locations through which a routing path is to  
12      be located to connect first and second integrated circuit devices from the set of  
13      two or more integrated circuit devices; and  
14      determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
15      connection data and the set of one or more routing indicators, the routing path  
16      between the first and second integrated circuit devices, wherein the routing path  
17      satisfies specified design criteria, and The computer readable medium as recited  
18      in Claim 24, wherein determining the routing path between the first and second  
19      integrated circuit devices includes  
20      extending the routing path a specified amount to generate an extended portion of  
21      the routing path, and

22           selectively performing a design rule check on only the extended portion of the  
23           routing path.

1     48. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 24,  
2           wherein all attachment and bend angles defined by the updated integrated circuit layout  
3           data are multiples of ninety degrees.

1     49. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 24,  
2           wherein one or more attachment or bend angles defined by the updated integrated circuit  
3           layout data are multiples of other than ninety degrees.

1     50. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more  
2           sequences of one or more instructions for automatically verifying an integrated circuit  
3           layout, the one or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions  
4           which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to  
5           perform the steps of:

6           receiving integrated circuit layout data that defines a set of two or more layout objects  
7           contained in the integrated circuit layout;  
8           performing a first design rule check on a layout object from the set of two or more layout  
9           objects by evaluating the layout object against specified design criteria;  
10          changing one or more values defined by the specified design criteria to generate updated  
11          specified design criteria, wherein the changing of the one or more values is  
12          performed after a specified amount of time has elapsed and is made with respect  
13          to either the layout object or one or more other layout objects from the set of two  
14          or more layout objects; and  
15          performing a second design rule check on the layout object by evaluating the layout  
16          object against the updated specified design criteria.

1 51. (CANCELED)

1 52. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more  
2 sequences of one or more instructions for automatically routing an integrated circuit, the one  
3 or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed  
4 by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

5 receiving integrated circuit layout data that defines a set of two or more integrated circuit  
6 devices to be included in the integrated circuit;

7 receiving integrated circuit connection data that specifies one or more electrical  
8 connections to be made between the integrated circuit devices;

9 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data and the integrated circuit  
10 connection data, a routing path between first and second integrated circuit devices  
11 that satisfies specified design criteria, wherein determining the routing path  
12 between the first and second integrated circuit devices includes  
13 determining whether the distance to be routed for a portion of the routing path  
14 exceeds a specified distance, and

15 if the distance to be routed for the portion of the routing path does not exceed the  
16 specified distance, then routing the portion of the routing path in a single  
17 step; and

18 updating the integrated circuit layout data to generate updated integrated circuit layout  
19 data that reflects the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit  
20 devices.

1 53. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system as recited in Claim 29, wherein determining  
2 the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit devices includes

3 identifying one or more obstacles that block the routing path,  
4 determining a set of one or more bends to be included in the routing path to avoid the one  
5 more obstacles, and  
6 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
7 connection data, the set of one or more routing indicators, the one or  
8 more portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted and the set of one  
9 or more bends, the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit  
10 devices.

1 54. (CANCELED)

1 55. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system as recited in Claim 54, Claim 29, wherein  
2 determining the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit devices  
3 further includes  
4 determining one or more portions of one or more other routing paths to be ripped up and  
5 rerouted, and  
6 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
7 connection data, the set of one or more routing indicators, the one or more  
8 portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted and the one or more  
9 portions of the one or more other routing paths to be ripped up and rerouted, the  
10 routing path between the first and second integrated circuit devices.

1 56. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system as recited in Claim 29, wherein determining  
2 the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit devices further includes  
3 identifying one or more obstacles that block the routing path,  
4 determining one or more portions of one or more other routing paths to be ripped up and  
5 rerouted, and

6 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
7 connection data, the set of one or more routing indicators, the one or  
8 more portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted and the one or  
9 more portions of the one or more other routing paths to be ripped up and rerouted,  
10 the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit devices.

1 57. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system as recited in Claim 29, wherein determining  
2 the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit devices includes  
3 determining the routing path from the second integrated circuit device to the first  
4 integrated circuit device,  
5 identifying one or more obstacles that block the routing path, and  
6 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
7 connection data and the set of one or more routing indicators, the routing path  
8 between the first and second integrated circuit devices, wherein the routing path is  
9 routed from the second integrated circuit device to the first integrated circuit  
10 device.

1 58. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system as recited in Claim 29, wherein determining  
2 the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit devices includes  
3 identifying one or more obstacles that block the routing path,  
4 determining one or more locations to employ corner clipping to provide additional space  
5 for the routing path, and  
6 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
7 connection data, the set of one or more routing indicators, the one or  
8 more portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted and the one or  
9 more locations to employ corner clipping, the routing path between the first and  
10 second integrated circuit devices.

1 59. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system as recited in Claim 29, wherein determining  
2 the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit devices includes  
3 identifying one or more obstacles that block the routing path,  
4 determining one or more integrated circuit layout objects to be moved to provide  
5 additional space for the routing path, and  
6 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
7 connection data, the set of one or more routing indicators indicators, the one or  
8 more portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted and moving the one  
9 or more integrated circuit layout objects, the routing path between the first and  
10 second integrated circuit devices.

1 60. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system as recited in Claim 29, wherein determining  
2 the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit devices includes  
3 examining data that indicates whether changes can be made to one or more layout objects  
4 defined by the integrated circuit layout data to accommodate the routing of the  
5 routing path, and  
6 if the data indicates that changes can be made to the one or more layout objects defined  
7 by the integrated circuit layout data to accommodate the routing of the routing  
8 path, then  
9 making one or more changes to the one or more layout objects defined by the  
10 integrated circuit layout data, and  
11 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
12 connection data, the set of one or more routing indicators indicators, the  
13 one or more portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted nd  
14 the one or more changes made to the one or more layout objects, the  
15 routing path between the first and second integrated circuit devices.

1 61. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as recited in Claim 60, wherein the routing  
2 mechanism is further configured to generate data that specifies the one or more changes  
3 made to the one or more layout objects.

1 62. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The system as recited in Claim 29, wherein determining  
2 the routing path between the first and second integrated circuit devices includes  
3 determining a set of one or more routing targets to which the routing path is to be routed,  
4 and

5 determining, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
6 connection data, the set of one or more routing ~~indicators~~indicators, the one or  
7 ~~more portions of the routing path to be ripped up and rerouted~~ and the set of one  
8 or more routing targets, the routing path between the first and second integrated  
9 circuit devices.

1 63. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system for automatically routing an integrated circuit, the  
2 system comprising:  
3 a data storage mechanism having stored therein  
4 integrated circuit layout data that defines a set of two or more integrated circuit  
5 devices to be included in the integrated circuit, and  
6 integrated circuit connection data that specifies one or more electrical connections  
7 to be made between the integrated circuit devices; and  
8 a routing mechanism communicatively coupled to the data storage mechanism, the  
9 routing mechanism being configured to  
10 determine, based upon the integrated circuit layout data and the integrated circuit  
11 connection data, a set of one or more routing indicators that specify a set  
12 of one or more preferable intermediate routing locations through which a

13           routing path is to be located to connect first and second integrated circuit  
14           devices from the set of two or more integrated circuit devices,  
15           determine, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
16           connection data and the set of one or more routing indicators, the routing  
17           path between the first and second integrated circuit devices, wherein the  
18           routing path satisfies specified design criteria, and The system as recited in  
19           Claim 29, wherein determining the routing path between the first and  
20           second integrated circuit devices includes performing one or more design  
21           rule checks on one or more portions of the routing path as the routing path  
22           is being determined. determined; and  
23           update the integrated circuit layout data to generate updated integrated circuit  
24           layout data that reflects the routing path between the first and second  
25           integrated circuit devices.

1       64. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as recited in Claim 63, wherein the routing  
2       mechanism is further configured to perform a design rule check on the updated integrated  
3       circuit layout data, wherein the design rule check does not check one or more layout  
4       objects previously checked during determination of the routing path.

1       65. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A system for automatically routing an integrated circuit, the  
2       system comprising:  
3       a data storage mechanism having stored therein  
4       integrated circuit layout data that defines a set of two or more integrated circuit  
5       devices to be included in the integrated circuit, and  
6       integrated circuit connection data that specifies one or more electrical connections  
7       to be made between the integrated circuit devices; and

8       a routing mechanism communicatively coupled to the data storage mechanism, the  
9       routing mechanism being configured to  
10      determine, based upon the integrated circuit layout data and the integrated circuit  
11      connection data, a set of one or more routing indicators that specify a set  
12      of one or more preferable intermediate routing locations through which a  
13      routing path is to be located to connect first and second integrated circuit  
14      devices from the set of two or more integrated circuit devices,  
15      determine, based upon the integrated circuit layout data, the integrated circuit  
16      connection data and the set of one or more routing indicators, the routing  
17      path between the first and second integrated circuit devices, wherein the  
18      routing path satisfies specified design criteria, and The system as recited in  
19      Claim 29, wherein determining the routing path between the first and  
20      second integrated circuit devices includes  
21      extending the routing path a specified amount to generate an extended  
22      portion of the routing path, and  
23      selectively performing a design rule check on only the extended portion of  
24      the routing path; and  
25      update the integrated circuit layout data to generate updated integrated circuit  
26      layout data that reflects the routing path between the first and second  
27      integrated circuit devices.

1     66. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as recited in Claim 29, wherein all  
2     attachment and bend angles defined by the updated integrated circuit layout data are  
3     multiples of ninety degrees.

1    67. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The system as recited in Claim 29, wherein one or more  
2       attachment or bend angles defined by the updated integrated circuit layout data are  
3       multiples of other than ninety degrees.